Fund for development of Industries

†*187. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to create a fund for the development and expansion of small and medium scale industries and also for building up basic infrastructural facilities for the expansion of industries during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken so far by Government to creat above fund?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) A Fund has structured by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for giving an impetus to the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises by making available timely and adequate financial resources at competitive interest rates.

For infrastructure development through consortium funding, an Inter-Institutional Group (IIG) has been formed involving several financial institutions.

(b) and (c) A Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Fund has been structured by SIDBI for giving impetus to the growth of SME sector in India. The objective of creating such fund is to make available timely and adequate financial resources to SME sector at competitive interest rates. The fund evisages a corpus of Rs. 10,000 crores spread over next two years.

Under the Fund, 80 per cent of the resources are proposed to be reserved for SSI Units having investment in plant and machinery up to Rs. 1.0 crore and balance 20 per cent is to be utilized for other SSI units and Medium sized Enterprises. Assistance under the Fund would be made available directly by SIDBI through Primary Lending Institutions. The maximum rate of interest would be two per cent below the PLR of SIDBI under direct assistance.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In order to create a suitable policy environment and facilitate an efficient credit deliver system for infrastructre development, IDBI, IDFC, ICICI Bank, SBI, LIC, Bank of Baroda and Punjab National Bank have formed an Inter-Institutional Group (IIG). They will pool their resources on a callable basis, and a sum of Rs. 40,000 crore will be made available as and when necessary at a competitive interest rate. The IIG will ensure speedy conclusion of loan agreements and implementation of infrastructure projects. Initially, airports, seaports and tourism will be the target sectors of the IIG.

Vacancies in PSUs

*188. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Board level posts in PSUs/ statutory organizations are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of posts likely to fall vacant during the current year; and

(c) the steps being taken to fill up the vacant posts and also the anticipated vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) 36 posts of Chief Executives and 96 posts of Functional Directors were vacant in Central PSUs as on 31.5.2004. These include 5 posts of Chief Executives and 25 posts of Functional Directors, which are kept in abeyance by the concerned administrative Ministries/ Departments.

(b) The details of posts vacant as on 31.5.2004 and those falling vacant from 1.6.2004 to 31.3.2005 numbering 51, as per available information, are given in the enclosed Statement I and II respectively (*See* below).

(c) Filling up of Board level vacancies in PSUs is a continuous process. There is an established procedure for this purpose. The selection is made by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) and the appointments are made by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments after completing all the requisite formalities and obtaining approval of the